

DOINGS OF A DAY IN THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS

Fourth Edition of the "Horse Book" Soon to Be Issued—The Buffalo Exposition Trustees Report Settlement of Claims With \$500,000 Appropriated by Congress, at 97 Cents on the Dollar.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Milton E. Ailes, Assistant Secretary, delivered an address last night before the Baltimore Chapter of the National Association of American Bank Clerks. His subject was "The Treasury and the Depository Banks."

Of the 3,340 new cases brought before Judge O'Connell, Solicitor of the Treasury, in the last year, 2,225 were won by him and only 17 lost. Of the remainder 261 were settled and dismissed and \$37 are still pending.

John G. Millburn, one of the trustees appointed to settle the claims of the director of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901, for which Congress appropriated \$500,000, has submitted a report to the department. The losses, as represented by the claimants, Mr. Millburn says, were \$516,019. He was able to make settlement at the rate of 97 cents on the dollar.

Every year the stationery division at the Treasury handles a large amount of paper and stationery. Mr. Simmons, who is in charge of this division, said today that every year some 12,000,000 envelopes are delivered on requisition. All the Government buildings connected with the Treasury Department, the country receive their stationery from them. There are over 1,000 chief offices. Other items which show what a large amount of desk work done in the department are, per year, 10,000 gross of steel pens, 12,000 quills of ink, 6,000 reams of paper for correspondence alone.

This material is shipped through the quartermaster's department and the registered mail, and as many as 2,000 wooden boxes are used annually in this shipping. Congress appropriates something like \$100,000 a year for the stationery, and \$400,000 for the books of blank forms.

This country is the only one in the world which furnishes a permanent life-saving service sustained by the Government. In France and England the coasts are guarded by life-savers in crews maintained by charitable institutions. This valuable service was originated in 1871 by S. L. Kimball, general superintendent of the service, who recalls the time thirty-five years ago, when there were scattered life-savers in this country and no regular service. The United States service is now the best in the world. Mr. Kimball has devoted his life to improving the efficiency of the service. Its value may be seen by the report which he has just submitted to Secretary Shaw.

Tea imported into this country since the war with Spain has been liable to a duty. Congress decided that this duty should cease January 1, 1903. The question is now raised whether duty on tea at present in bonded warehouses is to be refunded after that date should the duty continue in the warehouses. The Secretary has decided in favor of the refund. This question until January 1, 1903. As there were 75,597,125 pounds of tea imported during the last year and there is a large amount in the warehouses it is a question of importance. The greater part of this tea comes from China and Japan. In India the production of tea is becoming much cheaper on account of the use of machinery. There is an attempt now going on to raise tea in South Carolina. Should it prove successful on a large scale a protective tariff might be necessary.

W. W. Keen, professor of surgery in Jefferson Medical College, has presented a customs bill to the department which he asked to be refunded. The bill was for duty on American films which he took abroad with him. While in Honolulu, Japan, China, and the Philippines he took pictures of these films, and to prevent their spoiling had them developed. Then he had to pay duty on them back. The department has answered that all American goods that are in any way improved abroad are dutiable. It holds that the developed films have been improved.

WEATHER BUREAU.

Under the management of Prof. Edward B. Garritt, in charge of the forecast division and John P. Church and Benjamin F. Larcombe, chief and assistant, respectively, of the publication division, a daily weather map is issued presenting an outline of the United States and Canada, showing the stations where weather observations are taken daily at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m. These observations are reported to the bureau by telegraphic circuit from about 200 regular meteorological stations in charge of a trained observer. The maps are issued between 10 and 10:30 in the morning, in numbers ranging from 1,450 to 1,500. They are sent over this city by special delivery boys.

The value of a year's cargo of the trans-Atlantic steamers is estimated at \$1,600,000,000, and the Government is of the opinion that too much cannot be done in the application of meteorological science to weather forecasting.

DISTRICT BUILDING.

Thomas E. Drake, Superintendent of Insurance, is hard at work looking into the records and assets of the insurance companies seeking to qualify under the new license laws. The task is a difficult one and sometimes weeks are necessary to go over the books and reports to ascertain whether a company is in a position to comply with the regulations. The policy of the department is to move slowly, and when once the ground has been covered the work of renewing the licenses year by year will be comparatively easy. Mr. Drake hopes to finish the first examinations soon after the beginning of the next calendar year.

A. C. Redman, of the Sewer Division, has been promoted from rodman to inspector, to take effect November 17. Mr. Redman assumed his duties on that date, and in the new position receives compensation at the rate of \$4 per diem.

W. P. Richards, aside from being an accomplished engineer and capable in the performance of his duties, is most useful to the Engineer Department as an adviser in matters pertaining to street work. Mr. Richards is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge in the history of highway improvement and in the law relating to that branch of public work. What he does not carry in his mind is easily found in the pigeonholes of his office, in which all kinds of information are classified so as to be as readily referred to as a word in the dictionary.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT.

A list recently compiled by the appointment division gives the names of six postmasters in Maryland who have been longer in continuous service than any others in that State. The names, with the postoffice addresses and the dates of entering the service, are as follows:

James L. Gemmill, Freeland, Baltimore county, June 21, 1851; Thomas Henderson, Black Hawk, Harford county, July 14, 1853; Edward Pierce, Brighton, Montgomery county, November 27, 1855; William T. Richardson, Charlestown, Cecil county, March 22, 1855; William T. Brand, Emmorton, Harford county, March 14, 1855; Joseph V. Winemiller, Garsch Mills, Baltimore county, May 11, 1856.

W. R. Spilman, chief of the appointment division, who has been at his home in Kansas for the past month, returned to his office yesterday.

William Brownlow, in the rural free delivery division, will represent the Postmaster General on the Government board at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904. A feature of Mr. Brownlow's exhibits will be the automobile pictures relating to the department work. Some of these will give representation of officials at work on mail of incoming and outgoing steamboats in New York, on the Great Lakes, and on railway postal trains going at full speed. Other pictures will show rural free delivery and collection in progress. As this system has been started since the other exhibitions have taken place, practically, much interest will be taken in the life-like representation of this scheme. A striking contrast will be shown of the workings of the greatest postoffice in the United States and one of the crudest. The former will be shown by the microscope with its hundreds of employees at work and the latter with its one postmaster dealing out shoes, etc., with one hand and stamping letters with the other. This crude post-office will show a typical curiosity shop of shoes, boots, cans of oil, sugar, dynamite, and then the postoffice proper, consisting of a dozen or so letter boxes. The action of the city letter carrier from the time he leaves his department until he is given delivering his mail will also be shown. No pains will be lacking in making these representations of the department work excellent in every respect. Many others than those mentioned will be produced—some that will be strikingly unique.

Another exhibit will be a table showing the magnitude of the postal work as compared with three of the leading foreign postal countries of the world. It will show the gross amount of postal revenue, miles of mail service performed, and pieces of mail matter mailed and delivered. At the Columbian Exposition in 1893 a chart of this character was shown with the following figures. Gross amount of postal revenue: United States, \$70,320,476; Germany, \$57,790,118; Great Britain, \$50,424,371; France, \$48,493,177. Miles of mail service performed: United States, 362,957,695; France 260,581,126; Germany, 165,912,265; Great Britain, 3,203,500. Pieces of mail matter mailed and delivered: United States, 4,302,786,927; Germany, 2,776,948,719; Great Britain, 2,750,535,594; France, 1,881,322,911. Mr. Brownlow, who says that the chart for the St. Louis fair will show greater gains for this country over the other three, as represented different Postmaster Generals at the several fairs as far back as the one given at Omaha.

An agreement has been concluded with the Arikara, Grosventres and Mandan tribes of Indians on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota for the sale of 200,000 acres of land which lies in the big bend on the west side of the Missouri River. They have agreed to sell this land at \$1.25 an acre. The total amount is \$250,000. It was with some difficulty that the chiefs of the tribes were persuaded to part with their land because they were afraid if they let go of some of it they might finally lose their entire holdings.

James McLaughlin, the United States Indian inspector who negotiated the treaty with these Indians, reports that he visited their village twenty-four years ago when the entire tribe was huddled in an unsanitary and wrecked village. Now they are grazing cattle, farming intelligently, and are able to speak English fluently. Only one man on the reservation now wears long hair. All of them have cast aside feathers and beads and now dress after the white man's fashion. It is necessary for Congress to ratify the treaty which has been negotiated. If this is done the money is to be used by the Indians to purchase farming implements and other articles which will help them in their progressiveness.

FISH COMMISSION.

Anglers in the Potomac River who failed in their efforts to catch bass were furnished an unusual amount of sport in the past season by the spotted catfish, which is spirited and gamey, according to experts at the Fish Commission. Spotted catfish abound in the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and their tributaries, but until a few years ago they were not known in the waters of the Potomac. Small plants of the old fish and small fry were made by the United States Fish Commission in 1889, 1891, and 1892 at Quantico Creek, Va., Woodmont, Md., and Harpersford, Md. Catfish of the Potomac River. None were caught until the summer of 1899, when two, each less than a foot in length, were brought to the Fish Commission by a person who was to ascertain what sort of fish they were. Many have been hooked recently that weighed from ten to twenty pounds, and one weighed twenty-eight pounds.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

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GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

L. C. Ferrell, superintendent of documents, will say in his annual report that the office has received and distributed 1,640,000 documents during the last fiscal year and has sold 36,000 of the same for the sum of about \$11,000. This is a large increase over his report of last year.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

The Bureau of Animal Industry is engaged in revising and re-writing the "Horse Book," published originally in 1890 by the department. It was a report on the diseases of horses, and has had an exceedingly large circulation. There have been three editions, and the total number of copies issued have been 310,000. At the last session of Congress an act providing for the publication of a fourth edition of 500,000 copies was enacted. Of this number 192,000 copies are to be used by Congressmen and the others are for distribution upon application at the department.

The book on the diseases of cattle, also a report of the Department of Agriculture, issued in 1892, which has proved valuable to farmers and is second only to the horse book in popularity, is to be reissued soon. An order has been sent to the printer for 50,000 volumes.

Dr. D. E. Salmon, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, has been selected to represent the department at the International Live Stock Show to be held in Chicago, beginning on December 1.

S. H. Fulton, of the division of pomology, has returned from a trip to Kansas City, Mo.

Prof. G. Harold Powell, assistant pomologist, is in Philadelphia this week inspecting cold storage plants.

Prof. H. P. Gould, second assistant pomologist, is to be one of the speakers at the meeting of the Virginia State Horticultural Society to be held at Lynchburg on December 1.

C. H. Brush, recorder of the General Land Office, has supervision over the initial papers in all land patents granted by the Government. An application is first made to the offices of the land agents for permission to settle on the public domain. It is then forwarded to one of the divisions in the General Land Office and finally to Recorder Brush. Thousands of patents have been granted for millions of acres of land. His office is the largest recorder's office in the world.

As indicated by the number of invitations lying on the desks of the officials in the Land Office yesterday to the annual grand visitation of the most worshipful grand master of the Lafayette Masonic Lodge held last night at Masonic Hall there are proportionately more Masons in the General Land Office than in any other of the Government offices.

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Reports have been received in this city that within another year statistics are likely to show a large increase in the importations of raw sugar from the Philippine Islands. Since the war began planters have been badly handicapped by the upset conditions throughout the islands. In the last fiscal year the importation of raw sugar from the Philippines was 11,114,000 pounds, an average of 300,000 pounds a month. In 1897 it was 145,000,000. Yearly since then the sugar imports from the islands to America have been reduced, but more prosperous and peaceable conditions now are likely to make the Philippines an important raw sugar producer for American refiners.

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